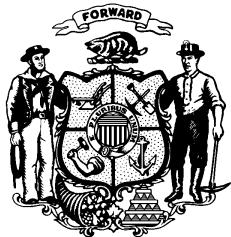


**October
2000**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN



Final Environmental Impact Statement

Arrowhead – Weston Electric

Transmission Line

Project – Volume 1

Docket 05-CE-113
Date Issued, October 2000

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Project

Environmental Impact Statement

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This Environmental Impact Statement for the Arrowhead-Weston Electric Transmission Line Project proposed by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and Minnesota Power Company to construct, operate, upgrade, and improve electric transmission lines and associated facilities complies with the Public Service Commission's requirement under Wis. Stats. § 1.11 and Wis. Adm. Code § PSC 4.30.

By:

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October 3, 2000

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To the Reader:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW or Commission) is an independent regulatory agency that receives its authority and responsibilities from the State Legislature. Its authority and responsibilities include regulatory oversight over certain public utility construction projects. The projects discussed within this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) require PSCW approval before the utilities may begin construction.

This EIS was prepared by Commission staff. Its purpose is to provide information to the public and the PSCW commissioners about the utilities' proposal. This information includes:

- An analysis of the need for the proposed projects.
- Analysis of system alternatives to the proposed projects, including analysis of engineering aspects and environmental implications of the system alternatives.
- Analysis of the environmental implications of route alternatives for the proposed transmission line projects.

This EIS fulfills part of the requirements of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) Wis. Stat. § 1.11. WEPA requires state agencies to consider environmental factors when making major decisions. This document covers potential environmental impacts that could result from construction of the proposed transmission line and related facilities in the state of Wisconsin. The EIS consists of two volumes. Volume I contains the discussion of issues and impacts. Volume II contains color graphics and maps that are referenced in Volume I.

Large-scale detailed colored maps showing the proposed routes have been developed based on comments received on the draft EIS. Printing and mailing these maps to every affected person in the project area would be cost-prohibitive. Packets of these maps have been sent to the parties in this case and to all county and local libraries in the affected project area.

The Commission will hold formal hearings in the project area. Affected area residents in Wisconsin will receive a Notice of Hearing, stating the dates, times, and locations of the public hearings. This EIS will be one of the exhibits presented at the hearing. Individuals are encouraged to attend and testify at the hearings.

Part of this proposed project is located in Minnesota. The applicants can only begin construction if the project is approved in both states. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) is the state agency in Minnesota charged with making this transmission line decision. More information about the process in Minnesota can be obtained by calling Robert Cupit of the MEQB at (612) 296-2096.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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